



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
 - a first component;
 - a bus coupled to with the first component, the bus to transmit packets of data, wherein the packets of data having special cycles embodying control information; and
 - a second component coupled to with the bus, messages passed between the first component and the second component through packets transmitted on the bus, the second component to receive the packets of data from the first component via the bus.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein: the packets of data may include either data cycles or special cycles, the special cycles encoding messages. wherein the control information to control the performance of the first component and the second component.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein: the second component may receive a message encoded in a special cycle from the first component and transfer that message the second component transmit the packets of data to a third component, the third component coupled to with the second component.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein: wherein the third component acts upon the message to perform according to the control information.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein: wherein the third component passes the message to transmit the packets of data to a fourth component, the fourth component coupled to with the third component.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein: wherein the second component receives a message from the first component and acts upon the message. perform according to the control information.
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein: wherein the second component acts upon the message by asserting a signal. performing comprises asserting a signal.
8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein: wherein the second component acts upon the message performing comprises changing behavior of the second component.
9. (Currently Amended) A method, of virtualizing signals comprising:
receiving a signal in at a first component;
passing a packets of data having a first message from the first component through via a bus coupled with the first component, the message encoding packets of data having special cycles embodying control information relevant to the signal; and receiving the first message in at a second component through via the bus.
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10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein: wherein the signal is packets of data comprise a second message, the signal received by the first component from a third component.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising: comprising passing the first message from the second component through a second bus to a the third component.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising: comprising acting on the first message, the acting performed by the second component performing according to the control information in response to receiving relating to the first message.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein: wherein the acting performing comprises at least one of the following: asserting a signal, and changing behavior.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently Amended) A method, of virtualizing signals in a system including a hub interface comprising:
receiving a first signal in a first hub of a hub interface;
passing a message in response to the first signal from the first hub through a first via the hub interface, the message corresponding to the first signal having control information; and
receiving the message through from the first hub interface in at a second hub.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising: acting on the message, the acting performed by the second hub responsive to the receiving the message, comprising controlling performance of the first hub and the second hub according to the control information.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
determining if the message is intended for the second hub;
acting on performing according to the message if the determining indicates the message is intended for the second hub; and

~~passing transmitting the message through to a second hub interface third hub if the determining indicates the message is not intended for the second hub.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising: ~~comprising~~ receiving the message ~~in-a~~ at the third hub through the second hub interface.
22. (Currently Amended) A system, ~~using virtualized signals on a hub interface comprising:~~ means for receiving a first hub coupled with a first hub interface to receive a first signal in a first hub; means for passing the first hub to transmit a message from the first hub through a via the first hub interface, the message having control information corresponding to the first signal, ~~the first hub coupled to the first hub interface;~~ and means for receiving the message a second hub to receive the message from the first hub via through the first hub interface in a second hub, the second hub coupled to ~~with~~ the first hub interface.
23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, further comprising: means for acting on the message, the means for acting associated with the second hub and operating responsive to the means for receiving the message. ~~wherein the control information to control performance of the first hub and the second hub.~~
24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, further comprising: means for determining if the message is intended for the second hub; means for acting on the message if the means for determining indicates the message is intended for the second hub; means for passing the message through a second hub interface if the means for determining indicates the message is not intended for the second hub, the second hub interface coupled to the second hub; and

~~means for receiving the message in a third hub to receive the message from the second hub via through the a second hub interface coupled with the second hub and the third hub, the third hub coupled to the second hub interface. the message having the control information to control the second hub and the third hub.~~

25. (Currently Amended) A chipset, comprising:

a memory control hub ~~capable of being~~ coupled to with a processor and ~~capable of being~~ coupled to with a memory;

a bus coupled to with the memory control hub, the bus ~~implemented~~ to transmit packets of data; and

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an input-output hub coupled to with the bus, ~~the input-output hub capable of being~~ coupled to and with an input-output device, the chipset ~~capable of passing to pass~~ messages between the memory control hub and the input-output hub ~~through by transmitting the packets of data transmitted on the bus via a hub interface~~, the messages including control information ~~about regarding~~ signals received from ~~one or more of~~ and to control at least one of the following: the processor, the memory, and the input-output device.

26. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a processor;

a processor bus coupled to with the processor;

a memory;

a memory control hub coupled to with the processor bus and ~~coupled to with the~~ memory;

a bus coupled to with the memory control hub, the bus ~~implemented to~~ transmit packets of data;

an input-output device; and

an input-output hub coupled to with the bus, ~~the input-output hub coupled to and with the~~ input-output device, ~~wherein messages may be passed between the memory control hub and the input-output hub to pass messages to the memory control hub by transmitting the through packets of data transmitted on the bus via a hub interface~~, the messages including having control information about regarding signals received from ~~one or more of~~ and to control one or more of the following: the processor, the memory, and the input-output device.

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27. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the hub interface comprises a packet-based split-transaction protocol.
 28. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises transmitting the packets of data using a packet-based split transaction protocol.
 29. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises transmitting a request packet to start a transaction and transmitting a completion packet to terminate the transaction.
 30. (New) The chipset of claim 25, wherein the hub interface comprises a packet-based split-transaction protocol.
 31. (New) The chipset of claim 25, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises transmitting the packets of data using the packet-based split transaction protocol.

32. (New) The chipset of claim 31, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises transmitting a request packet to start a transaction and transmitting a completion packet to terminate the transaction.

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